

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
April 24, 2006

Present: Chair Cooney, Berger, Bunker, Fort, Longley-Cook, Lord-Hausman, Vice Chair Moore

Absent/Excused: Gwynne, Steffens

Guests: Ed Sommerauer (Alameda Public Works), Paullina Kirola

MINUTES: The minutes of February 27, 2006 were approved.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Paratransit Advisory Meeting:**

Chair Cooney reported on the April 24th meeting of the Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee (PAPCo) held in Hayward. PAPCo was agreeable to use grant monies for signal countdowns and sidewalk accessibility but were less favorable to using paratransit monies for audible crossings since it was considered a secondary issue. However, ACTEA was more agreeable for using grant monies for audibles.

2. **Paratransit Annual Program:**

Ed Sommerauer, Associate Civil Engineer, presented to the Commission on Disability Issues a proposed modification to the City of Alameda Paratransit Program. The City is proposing a taxi scrip program to augment the existing program. There will be approximately \$60,000 per year for this program. The Commission agreed to support a program that would maximize the mobility of persons with disabilities.

The Commission also agreed that the program should consider the following:

- The program should serve seniors and persons with disabilities
- People over the age of 70 and disabled persons that qualify for East Bay Paratransit Service would also qualify for the taxi scrip program.
- There should be no restrictions on the types of trips.

- There should no restrictions on the number of trips.
- The rider should pay on a 1:4 ratio (25%) of the fare, similar to the BART program.
- The current MRTIP program that provides trips to passengers free of charge should continue unchanged.

A motion to have Chairman Cooney write a letter describing the Commission's recommendations was proposed by Charles Bunker and second by Adrienne Longly-Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Status of Accommodation Recommendations:

Chair Cooney will present report on providing costs of various Braille transcriptions/sign language interpreters at the next Commission meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Ed Sommerauer discussed accessibility to the newly opened Orteiz Restaurant on Webster Street. The main entrance to the restaurant is from the parking lot off Pacific Street. Currently there is a decal on the door opening onto Webster Street directing people to the accessible entrance of the parking lot. The Commission recommended a sign, not a decal, would be used to direct disabled people to the main entrance.
2. Ed Sommerauer handed out a flyer describing the theater project. The Commission's contributions to the project were acknowledged in the flyer

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chairman Ed Cooney received a phone call from a woman who requested that the curb in front of her residence be painted blue. The item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
2. Commissioner Jody Moore volunteered to man a booth at the Festival of Families on May 13.
3. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook said construction during the renovation of the Towne Center has created accessibility problems.

4. Commissioner Toby Berger mentioned that the first Concert at the Cove for this year would be held on June 9. The commission will have a booth. Additional concerts will be in July and August.
5. Commissioner Charles Bunker mentioned that the Pier 29 Restaurant would relocate to the former Wale's Tail Restaurant located on Bellina Boulevard.
6. Commissioner Audrey Lord-Hausman reminded the Commission that Meet Your Public Officials event will occur on April 28th between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 22, 2006 in Room 360, City Hall.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

Robert Claire
Associate Civil Engineer

RC:lc